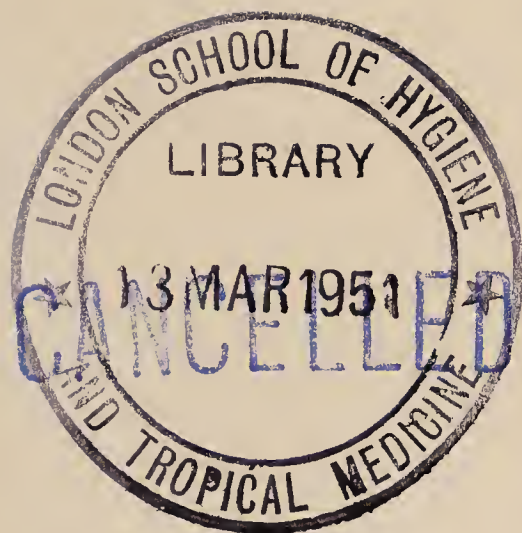




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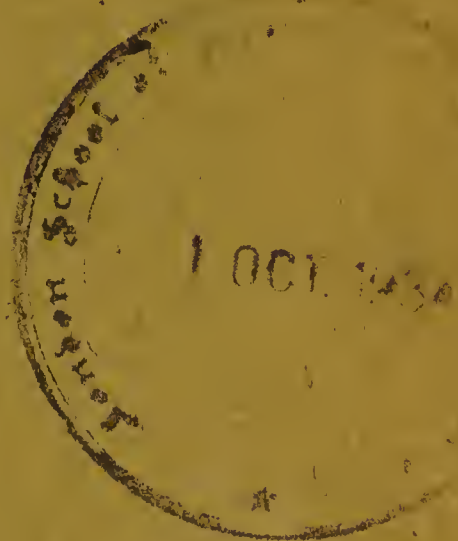
No. 1588

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of the

FALKLAND ISLANDS
1931

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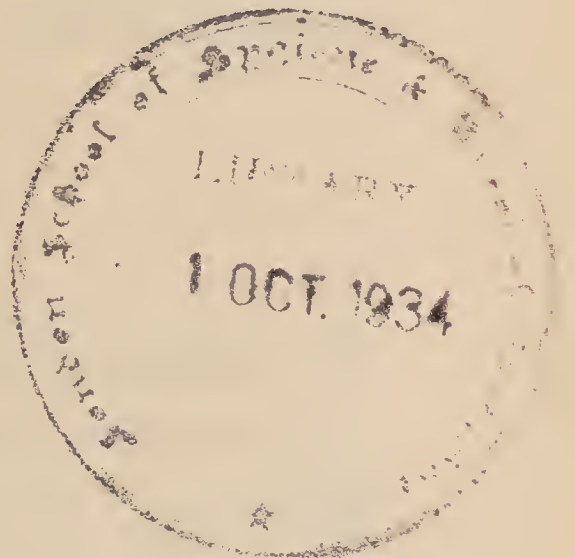
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1931.

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PART I.—THE COLONY.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

The Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan between 51° and 53° south latitude and 57° and 62° west longitude. In addition to the two main islands, known as the East and West Falklands, which are divided by the Falkland Sound, running approximately north-east and south-west, the group comprises about 200 smaller islands clustered around them within a space of 120 by 60 miles. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty chart, is as follows :

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of the group	4,618

The islands have a very deeply indented coast-line and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly, attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from

the Coast. The entire country is covered with wild moorland interrupted by outcrops of rock and the peculiar collection of angular boulders called "stone runs" the origin of which is scientifically disputed. There is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses where vegetables and in some places oats and hay are grown. The soil is chiefly peat, but considerable areas of sand also occur. In comprehensive appearance the Falkland Islands are bleak and inhospitable. Trees are entirely absent and the scenery is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands. The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on a natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. It has about twelve hundred inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which it is divided; of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company, with a population of about one hundred persons.

The climate of the Falkland Islands is characterized by the same seasonal variations as in the United Kingdom. These are, however, less noticeable in the Colony on account of its scant vegetation. The winters are slightly colder and the summers much cooler than in London, which is about as far north of the equator as Stanley is south. The average midsummer temperature of the Colony is even lower than the annual mean at London. While the relatively low temperatures are mainly due to the oceanic circulation, the daily weather is largely dependent on the direction of the wind, which, not infrequently, is so inconstant as to give rise to wide ranges of temperature within short intervals. Though the annual rainfall is not excessive, averaging only 26 inches, precipitation occurs on two out of every three days in the year, and, in consequence, the atmosphere is usually damp. A large proportion of the days are cloudy and tempestuous, calm, bright weather being exceptional and seldom outlasting twenty-four hours.

The Falkland Islands, called by the French "Isles Malouines" and by the Spaniards "Islas Malvinas," were discovered on 14th August, 1592, by John Davis in the *Desire*, one of the vessels of the squadron sent to the Pacific under Cavendish. They were seen by Sir Richard Hawkins in the *Dainty* on 2nd February, 1594, and were visited in 1598 by Sebald Van Weert, a Dutchman, and styled by him the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong in the *Welfare* sailed through between the two principal islands in 1690 and called the passage, where he landed at several points and obtained supplies of wild geese and fresh water, the Falkland Sound in memory of the well-known Royalist, Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at the battle of Newbury in 1643; and from this the group afterwards took its English name of "Falkland Islands" although this name does not appear to have been given to it before 1745.

The first settlement on the islands was established in 1764 by de Bougainville on behalf of the King of France, with a small colony of Acadians transferred from Nova Scotia, at Port Louis in the East Falkland Island on Berkeley Sound. In the following year Captain Byron took possession of the West Falkland Island and left a small garrison at Port Egmont on Saunders Island, which lies off and close to the north coast of the mainland.

The Spaniards, ever jealous of interference by other nations in the southern seas, bought out the French from the settlement at Port Louis, which they re-named Soledad in 1766, and in 1770 forcibly ejected the British from Port Egmont. This action on the part of Spain led the two countries to the verge of war. The settlement was restored, however, to Great Britain in 1771, but was again in 1774 voluntarily abandoned. The Spaniards in turn abandoned their settlements early in the nineteenth century, and the entire group of islands appears for some years to have remained without formal occupation and without inhabitants until in 1829 Louis Vernet, enjoying the nominal protection of the Government of the Republic of Buenos Aires, planted a new colony at Port Louis. Vernet thought fit to seize certain vessels belonging to the United States' fishing fleet and in 1831 his settlement suffered from an American punitive expedition. Finally, in 1833, Great Britain, who had never relaxed her claim to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, expelled the few Argentine soldiers and colonists yet remaining at Port Louis and resumed occupation, which has been maintained without break to the present day.

The Colony was under the charge of Naval Officers engaged in making Admiralty surveys until 1843, in which year a Civil Administration was formed, the headquarters of Government being at Port Louis until 1844, when they were removed to Stanley, then called Port William. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands lay on the main sea route from Europe through the Straits of Magellan to the west coast of South America, and in the days of sail frequently harboured vessels which had been worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn. On 8th December, 1914, they were the scene of the naval battle in which Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee defeated and destroyed the German Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee, and a memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled at Stanley on 26th February, 1927.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

At the head of the Government of the Colonies is the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council consisting of three official and one unofficial members. There is also a Legislative Council composed of four official and two unofficial

members, the latter being nominated by the Crown. The Colony received a regular grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880, and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since which date it has been wholly self-supporting. There is no local Government in the Colony.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

The inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are of European and chiefly of British descent, in which Scotch blood is marked. There is no indigenous or native population.

The 1931 census shows the total population as amounting to 2,392, compared with 2,094 in 1921 and 2,043 in 1901. Of this number 1,358 are males and 1,034 females. The density of the population is thirty-seven to the square mile. Approximately one-half of the inhabitants live in Stanley, the capital, and the remainder are divided more or less equally between Darwin and Lafonia to the south of the East Falkland, the northern districts of the East Falkland and the West Falkland. The number of births registered in 1931 was fifty-five, and of deaths twenty, or, respectively, 22.77 and 8.28 per 1,000. Eighteen marriages were celebrated during the year. The infantile mortality rate is recorded as 36.36 per 1,000 births of children under one year. One hundred and thirteen persons arrived in the Colony and one hundred and thirty persons left in the course of the period under review.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

The general health of the community is good and there were no epidemics or serious outbreaks of illness during the year. Malaria and other insect-borne diseases are unknown in the Colony. Appendicitis, tuberculosis, and bronchial complaints are the principal disorders from which the population suffers. Venereal disease is unknown and every precaution is taken against the possibility of its introduction.

There is a difficulty in regard to food which is never one of quantity, while the quality of that which is available is excellent ; nevertheless the diet is ill-balanced, a circumstance which is probably the chief cause of appendicitis and the invariable condition of bad teeth found accompanying it. Gardens are cultivated but insufficient attention is paid to the production and consumption of green vegetables. The necessity of adding lime to the soil must be emphasized. Fruit is not grown in the Colony ; the supply is irregular and inadequate and the loss in importation inflates the cost.

The dental condition of the population is improving and that of the children in particular probably at no time has been better.

Much work remains, however, to be done. All children of sixteen years and under receive free treatment and advice from the dental surgeon maintained by the Government who makes frequent visits of inspection to the schools in Stanley and periodical tours of the out-districts.

Vaccination is compulsory and most of the children have been vaccinated during the past three years. The requirements of the law in regard to vaccination is borne specially in mind during medical inspection of the schools and appropriate action is taken when defaulters are discovered.

Three fresh cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1931 and there were four deaths from this disease, which is not of recent origin in the Colony but is more widely distributed than has been hitherto suspected. It does not appear, however, that its incidence is increasing, or at least with such rapidity as to be noticeable or alarming. Modern hygiene and improved housing conditions, to which reference is made in the next chapter of this Report, may be expected to do much towards correcting the progress locally of tuberculosis.

Twenty-seven cases of appendicitis came under operative treatment in 1931.

As the winter of 1931 was exceptionally fine there were fewer cases of bronchitis and bronchial troubles than usual. A mild epidemic of acute nasal catarrh was experienced in the autumn.

The Government maintains out of public funds a hospital in Stanley under the style of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. It was built in 1914 and has been recently reconditioned and brought thoroughly up to date. Among the equipment is a portable X-ray apparatus and an artificial sunlight lamp. The hospital contains twelve beds and besides an out-patient department, nurses' quarters, and a laboratory, has a fully furnished operating theatre, a model of its kind. The staff includes the Principal Medical Officer, a Medical Officer, a Nurse-Matron, and a qualified Nursing Sister in addition to junior nurses locally recruited and trained. The Principal Medical Officer and the Medical Officer make tours of the Camp stations from time to time. It is to be observed in this connexion that the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, maintain their own Medical Officer at Darwin, as do the West Falkland farmers, with assistance from the Government, at Fox Bay.

Ante-natal and child-welfare services are provided at the hospital and the increasing number of patients indicates that these services are appreciated.

During the year 1931, 179 persons were treated as in-patients and there were 1,061 out-patients with a total attendance of 2,096. Forty-three surgical operations were performed with good results. Three deaths occurred in the hospital.

Mention must here be made of the generous gift to the hospital of the sum of £200 by John Hamilton, Esquire, of Weddell Island. This money was expended on the purchase of five hospital beds of a modern type, two invalid chairs, an instrument cabinet, dressing trolley, anaesthetist's stool, clock, medical reference books and a diagnostic case. The gift has been greatly appreciated by the patients and by the staff.

Sewage in the town of Stanley is disposed of partly by water-carriage system and partly by earth-closet method. The water-carriage system has been constructed during the past seven years and is still being extended; it remains now for the inhabitants to take greater advantage of the facilities supplied. The night soil from the earth-closets is removed by special carts under the control of the Public Works Department.

The water-supply is wholesome and satisfactory. Water is brought by pipe-line a distance of three miles and stored in a reservoir and a tank with an aggregate capacity approximating to 500,000 gallons. Distributing mains are being steadily extended and already serve the major portion of the town. In like manner the recent improvements to Stanley have included a great advance in the construction of roads, both old and new, and the necessary attendant drains.

Slaughter-houses in the town are required to comply with a standard laid down by the Board of Health, of which the Principal Medical Officer is *ex officio* Chairman, in regard to construction, drainage, and water-supply. Meat for human consumption is inspected at regular intervals by the Veterinary Officer and by the Sanitary Inspector. The supply of milk is similarly supervised by the Board of Health. Samples of milk are taken from time to time and are tested. An improvement in the samples is noticed and with a view to continued improvement in this respect the regulations regarding the sale of milk have been made more stringent.

Bi-annual rat weeks are held and have achieved considerable success in clearing rubbish dumps, waste-lands, and the foreshore from rats. Owners and occupiers of private premises are obliged to take steps to exterminate rats and mice on their premises.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

The housing problem in the town of Stanley which until recently presented a serious aspect has been tackled in so vigorous and practical a manner as, for the time being at any rate, virtually to have been solved. In general terms the housing of the people may be said to be fully satisfactory. Little over-crowding exists, if any, and the rate of building is adequate to immediate needs. The extensions to the drainage and sewerage systems and to the water-supply to which reference has been made in the previous

chapter have helped considerably to raise the standard of living and the health of the residents.

A large number of the wage-earning population own their own houses and building loans are made in suitable cases by the Government to facilitate the construction of new houses. The Government has also built a number of model dwellings for work-people for sale on easy terms of purchase. The Government maintains furthermore sufficient accommodation for its officials and two blocks of tenement dwellings which are rented to the more necessitous families in the community.

Power is vested in the Board of Health to ensure a proper standard both as regards the construction of new houses and the sanitary condition of existing houses. In case of need power obtains also to condemn premises as unfit for human occupation. As has been already stated, much progress has been made in this direction of recent years and steady progress continues to be made.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

For practical purposes wool is the sole product of the Colony at the present time. It is all exported in the grease to London; when prices are profitable skins and tallow are also shipped together with a limited quantity of hides. Sheep are run on farms varying approximately in extent from one hundred thousand acres to one hundred and fifty thousand acres and carrying on the average between twenty thousand and thirty thousand sheep, or, say, five acres to one sheep.

No statistics are kept of the actual quantity of wool produced in any one year as distinct from the quantity exported, but it may be taken that the production of wool over the five-year period ended on 31st October, 1931, was four million pounds annually as compared with four and a quarter million pounds annually over the previous quinquennial period. While this tendency towards reduced production is due in part to the depleted condition of the pastures, by reason of earlier over-stocking, it is also in part attributable to the measures initiated by the landowners themselves to conserve the productive value of their farms by reducing the number of sheep carried to the level the land can most economically support. Closer attention is being paid generally to selective breeding and it is becoming apparent that any loss in yield is on a fair way to compensation by gain in class.

The actual return of wool exported during 1931 is just under four millions pounds, to a value of £125,000, from which figures it will be seen that the average price realized was between 7½d. and 8d. a pound as against an average price of from 9d. to 10d. a pound in 1929. The fall in price is due to the slump in world prices but it is satisfactory at least to note that Falkland Islands wool

continues to hold its market ; with the advent of better times the industry should be in a position to make a ready return to prosperity.

Seal Oil.—The Falkland Islands Sealing Company, Limited, which is of recent incorporation and has confined its activities hitherto to the production of oil from hair seal, was unable to continue operating in 1931 on account of unfavourable market conditions, the price of whale and seal oil having dropped to £15 a ton or even below that figure, and there remaining on the hands of the Company considerable stocks unsold from the previous season. From the point of view of production the prospects of the Company are encouraging but its financial outlook gives cause for anxiety in the absence of a sharp recovery in demand and in prices.

General.—Apart from the commodities above described the Colony has no resources of known commercial value. Agriculture can hardly be said to exist, although it is of interest to observe that the acreage under cultivation, mainly of forage crops, is increasing. There are no forests and no fisheries, while mineral deposits suitable for working have yet to be discovered.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The aggregate value of trade for the year was £257,728 as compared with £330,386 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £5,670 and exports of £66,988.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years :—

<i>Imports.</i>	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco ...	70,302	45,568	43,850	44,584	40,267
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	28,056	22,289	17,944	13,057	12,093
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	75,240	74,338	95,281	53,613	56,965
Miscellaneous and unclassified	715	2,973	4,073	5,191	1,415
Bullion and specie ...	25	1,900	—	—	35
<i>Total imports ...</i>	£174,338	147,068	161,148	116,445	110,775
<i>Exports.</i>	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wool ...	236,028	280,770	236,992	190,943	125,818
Hides and skins ...	10,713	13,332	13,029	14,704	8,941
Tallow ...	860	1,016	1,529	722	1,860
Live stock ...	—	600	—	473	—
Seal oil ...	—	—	16,423	5,920	—
Bullion and specie ...	—	—	—	—	8,000
Other articles ...	332	593	897	1,179	2,334
<i>Total exports ...</i>	£247,933	296,311	268,870	213,941	146,953

The decrease in the value of the wool exported is due entirely to the fall in market prices, the actual quantity shipped exceeding the quantity shipped in 1930. No seal oil was exported by reason of the uneconomical prices obtainable.

Imports.

The principal articles imported during 1931 were, in value :—

	£
Provisions	25,667
Hardware, etc.	22,467
Drapery, etc.	8,769
Timber	8,168
Paints, etc.	6,057

and in quantities :—

Beer	23,087 gallons.
Spirits	2,657 gallons.
Tobacco	9,871 pounds.
Matches	1,751 gross.

There is no appreciable difference as compared with 1930 in the value or the volume of the import trade of the Colony, decreases under provisions, timber, and spirits being counter-balanced by almost equivalent increases under hardware, drapery, and beer. The decrease in the quantity of timber imported is to be attributed to the reduced programme of building undertaken by the Government after a period of extraordinary activity in this direction.

Approximately 81 per cent. of the total imports came from the United Kingdom as compared with 82.9 per cent. in 1930. The countries of origin were as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	89,126
Other parts of British Empire	—
Total from British Empire	£89,126
Uruguay	11,493
Chile	5,295
Argentine	3,597
United States	429
Other countries	835
Total from foreign countries	£21,649

The only noticeable feature in regard to the course of the import trade is the increase in the value of commodities, principally fresh food-stuffs, obtained from Uruguay, £11,493 as against £8,603 in 1930. This increase is due no doubt to the improved facilities for communication between Stanley and Montevideo to which reference is made in another chapter of this Report.

Exports.

Almost the entire export trade continued, as in previous years, to be with the United Kingdom, shipments to other countries being inconsiderable, i.e., a total value of £855. The following is a comparative table showing the quantities exported during the past five years :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Wool (lb.)	3,972,509	3,929,487	4,068,057	3,690,572	3,931,593
Tallow (lb.)	96,320	144,480	274,400	158,368	275,520
Hides and sheepskins (number).	79,300	52,194	57,489	52,091	73,566
Seal oil (barrels) ...	—	—	2,657	2,424	—

With the exception of seal oil, these figures are well up to the five years' average and call for no special remark.

CHAPTER VIII.**WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.**

No change occurred during 1931 in regard to rates of wages or hours of work. Labourers in Stanley were paid from £10 to £12 a month, or 1s. 2d. an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 a month, or 1s. 7d. an hour. The hours of work were eight hours a day with a total of forty-five hours a week. In Stanley employment is almost solely at the disposal of the Government and of the Falkland Islands Company and, if it had not been for the extensive works undertaken by the Government, unemployment would have been very severe. Actually, although from time to time a considerable number of men were seeking employment there was little, if any, distress.

On the farm stations wages ranged from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat, and milk found. Wages of domestic servants both in Stanley and in the Camp varied from £3 to £4 a month with all found.

The staple foodstuffs of the population, including general labourers, are the same essentially as in the United Kingdom, namely meat, (mostly mutton), bread, sugar, and tea. Mutton costs 3d. a pound, bread 1s. a four-pound loaf, sugar 3d. a pound, and tea 2s. 3d. a pound. Taking £2 10s. a week as an average rate, a labourer's wages are equal to fifty loaves. The cost of living for officials from the United Kingdom is moderate but high prices can only be avoided, generally speaking, by adherence to a diet strictly limited in variety; many of the more usual amenities of life are either wanting or difficult to obtain. No hotels exist in Stanley in the accepted sense of the term, but there are several boarding houses which offer a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience for residents and for occasional visitors with charges ranging from £1 10s. to £3 3s. a week. Houses, if not provided by the Government, are hard to find and the average rent of an unfurnished house suitable for occupation by an official is £50 a year.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Schools.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years residing in Stanley is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. Provision is also made at the Government school for attendance at a continuation class for a two-year course of more advanced study. A scheme instituted in 1924 further provided for children from the country districts to be boarded and lodged in a Government hostel and taught in the school at an inclusive charge of 10s. a month during residence or, alternatively, for grants from Government funds not exceeding two-thirds of the cost of board and lodging for the children in private houses. In 1929 it was decided that the hostel had not received sufficient support to justify the cost of maintaining it, and the institution was closed down. It is a matter of regret that this attempt to give children in the country districts the benefit of schooling in Stanley has had to be abandoned. The maintenance grants are, however, still being continued.

There are no facilities in the Colony for higher or vocational education.

There are no institutions, orphanages, or Poor Law institutions, and no legislative provision for maintenance in the event of accident, sickness, or old age ; such philanthropic services as are necessary in the community are rendered direct by the Government or are included in the ministrations of the Churches.

Sport.

Encouragement is given in all ways practicable to sport and recreation, both indoor and outdoor. Rifle shooting may be well described as the national sport of the Colony, and the Defence Force Rifle Association, which is affiliated to the National Rifle Association, holds an annual meeting at Stanley on the lines of those held at Bisley. The achievement of the Falkland Islands team in winning the Junior Kolapore Cup at Bisley in July, 1930, has added a new stimulus and has given rise also to moral reactions of much value. Other branches of sport, such as football and badminton, flourish under the aegis of the Defence Force and opportunities for tests of strength with visiting opponents, principally the crews of His Majesty's ships of the South American Division, are eagerly awaited. Stanley boasts a golf club with a good membership and an interesting nine-hole course, which receives constant attention with a view to its improvement. A ladies' hockey club also functions enthusiastically.

Physical training forms an important part of the regular curriculum of the Government school and in it are included football, hockey, and gymnastics as well as the formal Swedish drill.

The newly constructed Public Baths and Gymnasium have proved themselves immediately to be a most popular institution and have become a central feature of the life of the town. The construction of a swimming bath would be an additional boon to the community and the matter is receiving such consideration as circumstances permit.

General.

The Town Hall, Stanley, contains a large stage which is fitted with modern appliances for theatrical productions including a draw curtain and lighting effects. It can seat an audience of five hundred people in comfort and safety. Productions and concerts are given from time to time, the most recent and widest famed being the children's fantasia "Zachariah Fee," which enjoyed a run of three years. Plays such as this not only provide a welcome source of entertainment during the long winter evenings, but also afford valuable training to the large number of children and young persons who otherwise have little or no occasion to display and to develop their natural talent.

The boy scouts and girl guides movements, together with their dependent cubs and brownies, continued their useful work during 1931 as in past years. Measures have been initiated furthermore in conjunction with the latter movement to establish a home-spun industry in the Islands.

Under the auspices of the Falkland Islands Horticultural Society a Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition is held in the late summer whenever weather and general conditions are favourable. Special classes are included for the arts and crafts. The 1931 Show and Exhibition marked a revival after a lapse of some years and was supported in a sufficient measure to warrant expression of the hope that it is the precursor of a regular and successful series.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Communication between Stanley and the outside world is effected principally through Montevideo, to which port a service is maintained in accordance with actual requirements by the s.s. *Lafonia*, a vessel of some six hundred tons dead weight, belonging to the Falkland Islands Company and running on a mail contract for a period of five years from October, 1931. In addition, calls are made at Stanley by cargo vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Since the opening of the Panama Canal the passenger vessels of this Company have visited the Colony at increasingly rare intervals

and recently they have arrived once only in the year in the course of a tourist cruise round South America ; the calls of the cargo vessels tend likewise to become more irregular and infrequent partly on account of the depression in trade. At the beginning and the end of the whaling season in October and April opportunities occur from time to time for the transport of mails, and, by special arrangement, of passengers, in the floating factories which pass through Stanley on their way to or from the fishing grounds at Graham's Land and the South Shetland Islands. The distance from Stanley to Montevideo is rather more than a thousand miles and the time taken on the voyage varies, according to the class of vessel, from three to five days. The usual period occupied in the transit of mails to and from the United Kingdom is four weeks via Montevideo ; by the direct route the passenger vessels complete the journey in twenty-six days and the cargo vessels require upwards of a month on the voyage home, which is performed almost invariably from Stanley to London without intermediate stop, and on the outward voyage upwards of five weeks dependent on the number of calls made. Outward-bound these vessels carry general cargo but homeward they are fully laden with wool for the home market.

On the average, opportunities for the receipt and despatch of mails are available monthly. In the early part of the year the homeward sailings are usually more frequent but during the winter months, from May to October, the intervals are sometimes as long as six weeks.

Communication with the Dependency of South Georgia is maintained by the s.s. *Fleurus* of the Tonsberg Whaling Company with the aid of a subsidy from the Government. The schedule of sailings for the current year provides six return voyages between Stanley and Grytviken ; in other years when whaling operations have been in progress in the South Shetlands a voyage has been made additionally to Deception Island.

A wireless station for external traffic is operated by the Government at Stanley under the style of the Falkland Islands Radio. Regular communication is maintained direct with London, Bergen, Montevideo, and Magallanes, while the South Georgia Radio at Grytviken provides a link between Stanley and that Dependency. Telegraph charges to the United Kingdom are 1s. 4½d. a word. There are no submarine cables in operation. The postal rate of one penny per ounce for letters to the United Kingdom and the Empire still remains in force.

There are no railways in the Colony and no roads beyond the town of Stanley and its immediate vicinity. Internal communication is carried out on horseback or by boat ; caterpillar cars and lorries can be taken over considerable stretches of the Camp but their use as yet has hardly progressed further than the experimental stage.

The inter-insular service alike for passengers and for mails devolves principally on the s.s. *Lafonia*, facilities being arranged

as far as practicable so as to afford connexions with in-coming and out-going sailings for overseas. There are no inland telegraphs, but a telephone system is run by the Government in Stanley both for official and general use. Many of the farmers have their own lines which join up with the Stanley system on the East Falkland and on the West Falkland converge at Fox Bay where the Government also maintains a small wireless station for the purpose of inter-insular traffic. Two farm stations have constructed wireless stations of low power for local communication.

There are no omnibuses or tramways plying for the service of the public in the Falkland Islands ; nor have the means of aerial travel hitherto been introduced although the possibilities in the latter direction would seem certainly to warrant investigation.

Statistics of sufficient interest in regard to communications and transport generally are not available but the following table shows the number, the nationality, and description of the vessels which entered the Colony from overseas during 1931 :—

<i>Nationality.</i>			<i>Steam Vessels.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	...	...	18	41,999	6	301
Foreign	...	...	1	358	—	—
			—	—	—	—
			19	42,357	6	301
			—	—	—	—

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on 30th September, 1931, the total sum deposited was £159,961, and the number of depositors 1,029. The average amount standing to the credit of each depositor was £155 or about £67 per head of the population. There is no agricultural or co-operative bank or similar institution in the Colony.

Remittances for the credit of any person or firm in the Colony can be made through the Commissioner of Currency and the Crown Agents for the Colonies, a charge being payable at the rate of 1 per cent. A similar service is undertaken by the Falkland Islands Company, who act generally as bankers or financial agents for the farm stations.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 10s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under the Falkland Islands Currency Note Ordinance, 1930. It is estimated that on 31st December, 1930, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. During the year the currency-note issue stood at £24,000. The system of weights and measures in use in the Colony is the same as that in use in the United Kingdom.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal new works undertaken during the year were the continued construction of the North Camp Road, the extension of the Stanley Improvement Scheme and the development of the electric lighting system. The North Camp Road leads westwards along the south side of Stanley harbour to the wireless station, a distance of approximately three miles. It will be completed early in 1932 and is the first metalled road to be built outside the limits of the town boundary. Apart from the amenities which it affords to the inhabitants of Stanley it has been instrumental in providing employment and in opening up new peat fields for the supply of fuel for Government purposes.

The Stanley Improvement Scheme was carried on in pursuance of the programme under which, at a total cost of £20,000 to be spread over four years, extensions are in progress to the roads, water-supply, and drainage in the town, and also housing improvements. During 1931 nearly a mile of main drainage was laid and about three-quarters of a mile of roads were either formed or re-formed.

The electric lighting system was considerably extended. An up-to-date generating plant was obtained and installed in a new power house situated in the centre of the town. All Government buildings and officials' quarters are now lit by electricity as well as a number of privately owned houses. The oil street lamps have been replaced by standards fitted with electric arc-lamps. The existing plant is already working at full load and as an increasing number of applications to come on to the system continue to be received facilities for the supply of additional power will be necessary in the near future.

Among other works undertaken by the Public Works Department mention must be made of the new Public Baths and Gymnasium which were commenced in 1930 and completed and opened in 1931. The baths have won immediate popularity and are proving themselves to be of inestimable benefit to the public; use is being made also of the various gymnastic appliances. The first stages of the re-conditioning of the Town Hall and public offices for their better preservation were successfully accomplished. The exterior boarding is deteriorating and the north and west sides of the building were felted and covered with galvanized steel sheeting; it is proposed to treat the remaining two sides in a similar manner during the current year.

Improvements were carried out to the quarantine station and to the Government school. The cart tracks over the common land were repaired so as to facilitate the haulage of peat for householders in Stanley and the marking out of tracks to the Camp and the bridging of streams and the paving of gateways on these tracks

were continued during the year. Two bridges, one over the Antiojo River and one over the Swan Inlet Stream on the track from Stanley to Darwin, were erected by the Falkland Islands Company with the assistance of a grant from public funds. Radio - telegraph operations were transferred from the Government station at the east end of Stanley harbour to the station built by the Admiralty during the war at the west end of the harbour. Two only of the seven masts at the latter station are in actual use and these were thoroughly overhauled and painted and rigged with aerials ; incidentally they both exceed three hundred feet in height. The machinery at the old station was removed and fitted for use in the new station which was wired out as required. Quarters were also altered and decorated for occupation by the operating staff.

The Public Works Department of the Colony is composed of a Director of Public Works with subordinate outdoor and clerical staff. The Electrical Department is run as a separate unit under the control of the electrician-in-charge who is responsible for the upkeep of the electric lighting system and of the telephone and broadcasting services.

The Public Works Department, in the absence of a municipality or other form of local government in Stanley, undertakes the usual maintenance services, including conservancy and water-supply, for the town. In addition, the Department has to cut and transport the considerable quantity of peat fuel which is required for Government purposes. To its charge are committed, furthermore, the general upkeep of all Government buildings and property, in particular, bridges, fences, jetties, and harbour lights. The above services were all carried out with due care and efficiency during the year.

The total expenditure incurred under the Public Works and Electrical votes was £24,451 in 1931 ; at the end of the year the number of men on the pay roll, exclusive of monthly employees, was more than seventy, showing an increase of twenty over the number employed at the beginning of the year. This increase is to be accounted for by the measures put in hand by the Government with the object of relieving unemployment in Stanley, for example, as already stated, on the North Camp Road.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The judicial system of the Colony is limited to a Supreme Court in which the Governor sits alone as Judge and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. The majority of the farm managers are Justices of the Peace and as such have power to deal with minor offences. The local Police Force consists of four constables and a chief constable and is stationed entirely in Stanley. The chief constable is also

gaoler-in-charge of the gaol in Stanley, which accommodates only short-sentence prisoners.

In general the Colony shows a remarkable absence of crimes of violence, while serious crime of any description is of rare occurrence. Cases of petty theft and of injury to property, however, are to be recorded from time to time. Sixteen persons were dealt with in 1931 in the Summary Court and of this number fifteen were convicted. No criminal issue came before the Supreme Court during the year, and there were no cases heard in the Juvenile Court. The problem of young offenders does not arise except in isolated cases each of which receives individual attention from the reformatory rather than from the punitive point of view. No instance is on record, at any rate in recent years, in which a child or young person has been committed to prison.

The prison in Stanley was inspected regularly by the medical authority and was found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition ; the health of the one prisoner incarcerated in 1931 was good during his brief sojourn in the gaol.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

Eleven Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1931. In addition to the Supplementary Appropriation (1930) Ordinance No. 1, and the Appropriation (1931) Ordinance No. 9, the following measures were enacted :—

No. 2. The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, amending, in conformity with colonial legislation generally existing provisions in regard to the computation of pensions of re-employed pensioners and the gratuity payable to the estate of an officer who dies in the service.

No. 3. The Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, enacting a verbal amendment only to previous legislation.

No. 4. The Summary Jurisdiction (Amendment) Ordinance, prescribing certain traffic offences in the town of Stanley, principally by drivers of motor vehicles and riders of bicycles.

No. 5. The Dog Licences (Amendment) Ordinance, providing for the issue of free licences to dogs kept in Stanley for the sole purpose of the owner's business.

No. 6. The Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance, providing power to prohibit from use buildings unfit for human habitation and enabling the medical authority to enter any building for the purpose of enforcing the Public Health Ordinance and the by-laws made thereunder.

No. 7. The Tariff (Import Duties) (Amendment) Ordinance, reducing the duty on the import of spirits from £1 10s. to £1 a gallon.

No. 8. The Arbitration (Foreign Awards) Ordinance, giving effect locally, in conformity with Imperial Legislation generally, to the provisions of the Convention on the Execution of Arbitral Awards and the Protocol on Arbitration Clauses.

No. 10. The Tariff (Export Duties) (Amendment) Ordinance, fixing the special rate of duty on export of whale oil and seal oil during the 1931-32 and 1931 seasons, respectively, at 2s. for each barrel of forty gallons.

No. 11. The Prevention of Venereal Disease Ordinance, prohibiting the landing in the Colony of any person suffering from venereal disease.

The following subsidiary legislation was brought into force by Proclamation of the Governor during the year :—

No. 1. Establishing the close season under Section 3 of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1913, as the period between the first day of September (*vice* October) in any year and the last day of February in the following year.

No. 3. Adding to the list of drugs scheduled as dangerous under Part II of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1925, the esters of morphine and di-hydro-morphinone and their respective salts.

No. 4. Bringing into operation the Falkland Islands Currency Notes Ordinance, 1930, as from 19th May, 1931.

No. 5. Revoking Proclamation No. 4 of 1928 prohibiting the exportation of gold coin or bullion.

An Order in Council of the Governor made the under-mentioned additions to the Schedules of the Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1913, (*a*) to Schedule I of totally protected fauna, the Cooi Heron (*Ardea cooi*) and the Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), and (*b*) to Schedule II of fauna protected during the close season, the Hare, the Pampa Teal (*Querquedula versicolor*), and the Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*).

Regulations were made also under the following headings :—

(1) The Penguins (Amendment) Regulations, restricting the taking of eggs of the Gentoo penguin under licence to the period 1st to 31st October in any year.

(2) The Live Stock (Amendment) Regulations, providing that for the purpose of the Live Stock Regulations (Consolidation), 1923, sheep transhipped in South America during importation shall be treated in the same manner as sheep imported from South America.

(3) The Pensions (Amendment) Regulations, amplifying and consolidating the schedules of other Governments as classified for the purpose of the Pensions Regulations, 1928.

The Stanley Milk Supply Protection (Amendment) By-laws, passed under the Public Health Ordinance, 1894, prohibit the selling of milk and cream without a licence issuable annually by the Board of Health.

Conditions of labour in the Colony render unnecessary legislation in the nature of factory Acts ; neither is there any provision on the Statute book for compensation for accidents or for sickness or old age.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1931 from all sources was £78,397, as compared with £82,812 in 1930, and from ordinary sources £51,805, as compared with £62,094 in 1930. This decrease is to be attributed generally to the falling off in customs, telegraph, shipping, and other miscellaneous receipts affected by the depression in trade. The expenditure on recurrent services was £38,977, or less by £12,828 than the revenue from ordinary sources. A sum of £13,690 was spent, however, under Public Works Extraordinary, the net excess of £862 being necessitated by the measures undertaken to relieve unemployment and being met from the available floating balances. In addition, a further amount of £20,009 was put to the Reserve Fund during the year. As compared with 1930 the ordinary expenditure showed a decrease of £151, a testimony in itself to the manner in which all departments in the administration continued their loyal co-operation in the rigid application of the policy of "economy with efficiency."

The following table gives the comparative figures of the expenditure and the revenue for the past five years :—

			<i>Revenue.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
			<i>Ordinary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Ordinary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
			£	£	£	£
1927	...	...	50,318	62,069	38,764	50,814
1928	...	...	51,011	73,957	55,329	68,903
1929	...	...	66,650	73,599	46,000	59,041
1930	...	...	62,094	82,812	39,128	69,979
1931	...	...	51,805	78,397	38,977	72,676

The Colony has no public debt. The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st December, 1931, amounted to £274,935. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and the end of the year :—

			<i>1st January. 31st December.</i>	
			£	£
Land Sales Fund	...	...	229,172	235,730
Marine Insurance Fund	...	...	2,848	2,848
Reserve Fund	...	...	13,990	34,000
General Account	...	...	23,229	2,357
			£269,239	£274,935

The main heads of taxation are three, namely, Customs duties on imports, an export duty on wool and on whale oil and seal oil, and rates levied on house property in the town of Stanley ; the

yield from each source in 1931 was, respectively, £7,096, £7,929, and £725. Customs duties on imports are collected only on liquor, tobacco, and matches at the following rates :—spirits 20s. a gallon, wine 3s. a gallon in bulk or 3s. 6d. a dozen bottles of reputed pints, malt 6d. a gallon in bulk or 6d. a dozen bottles of reputed pints, cigarettes, manufactured tobacco and snuff 4s. a pound, and matches for every gross of boxes not exceeding 10,000 matches 4s. The duty on the export of wool is at the rate of 1s. for every twenty-five pounds, and on whale and seal oil at the rate of 2s. for every barrel of forty gallons or 12s. a ton. There are no excise or stamp duties and no hut tax or poll tax.

PART II.—THE DEPENDENCIES.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

General.

The Dependencies are divided into two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Graham's Land.

Geography.

The island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands, in $54\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ south latitude, the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east, respectively, of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland Islands. South Georgia with the South Orkneys and South Sandwich group of Dependencies is bounded by the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and by the twentieth and fiftieth meridians of west longitude, and the South Shetlands and Graham's Land by the fifty-eighth parallel of south latitude and by the meridians of longitude fifty and eighty west. South Georgia is the principal island in the Dependencies and is the only portion of them inhabited throughout the year except for the meteorological station which is maintained by the Argentine Government on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. It has an area of about 1,450 square miles (statute), is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of 20 miles, and consists mainly of steep mountains from which glaciers descend. There is but little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the south-west side being permanently frozen.

The main vegetation is some coarse grass which grows on the north-eastern side of the Island, where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous quadrupeds other than seals but reindeer have been introduced and are thriving well. There are many sea-birds including penguins and albatrosses. The sea-elephant, the sea-leopard and the Weddell's seal frequent its shores. The coast-line has been indifferently charted but much useful work has been done in this direction during the past three years by the "Discovery" Expedition.

Climate.

Although Grytviken in Cumberland Bay, South Georgia, is little over a hundred miles further south than Stanley the difference in climate is very marked, that of the former approximating closely to conditions in the Antarctic. The mountains are ice-bound and snow-capped throughout the year and glaciers descend on the grand scale right to the sea. During the year 1931 the average mean temperature was 35.22° Fahrenheit. Rain fell on one hundred and twelve days and snow or sleet on one hundred and thirty-three days. Within recent years instances of volcanic activity at Deception Island, South Shetlands, have been frequent. The first earthquake of which there is any definite record occurred in 1923, though it is stated by some of the whaling community that shocks were felt in 1912. In February, 1924, a strong tremor was experienced, when a large rock forming the crest of a natural arch, and known locally as the "Sewing Machine," at the approach to Port Foster was disturbed, and, in 1925, during the absence of the whaling factory *Ronald*, one of the giant columns in the entrance of the harbour disappeared. Again, in the season 1928-29 several earthquake shocks were felt, the most pronounced being in March, 1929, when a large quantity of rock fell, completely changing the formation of the ridge on the east side of the harbour. On 13th December, a further shock occurred, and from that date to the end of the year slight tremors continued to be felt. The water in the harbour of Port Foster frequently becomes agitated by the subterranean heat, the shores in places being completely obscured by the dense vapour emitted.

History.

South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands were sighted and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook in 1775, and the South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell of the British ship *Dove* who landed on Coronation Island on 7th December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by Mr. W. Smith in the brig *Williams* in 1819 and were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1820. Captain Bransfield also discovered the first part of Graham's Land and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832. Profitable

sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers are reported there in 1819. The fur-seal industry in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that expeditions were made to them in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22 by no less than ninety-one vessels. So recklessly did they slaughter, however, that they are said practically to have exterminated the fur-seal, James Weddell stating that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

The meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys to which reference has been already made was established in 1903 by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under Mr. W. Bruce and was transferred by him in 1904 to the Argentine Government. A new and valuable survey of the South Sandwich group was carried out in 1930 by the Royal Research ship *Discovery II* of the "Discovery" Expedition.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

Constitutionally the Dependencies are subject to the same authority as the Colony proper, that is to say to the Governor and to the Executive and Legislative Councils. Ordinances enacted by the latter body, however, in respect of the Colony do not have application to the Dependencies unless they are specially applied.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are peopled almost exclusively and utilized mainly by foreigners and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident magistrate and official staff are maintained at South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the other Dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions.

There is no local government in South Georgia; in fact there are no communities other than the whaling stations which are run by the managers on behalf of the several companies owning them.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

As has been stated in the preceding chapters, there is no permanent population in the Dependencies except in South Georgia where the figures fluctuate with the seasons of the whaling industry. The population in South Georgia is entirely resident either on the privately-owned whaling stations or at the Government Headquarters at King Edward Cove in Cumberland Bay. During the summer it approximates to 1,500, practically all males, and during the winter to one-third of that number. At the census taken on 26th April, 1931, the number of persons at South Georgia, including

shipping, was recorded as five hundred and sixty-three and at the South Shetlands as one hundred and forty-six ; among these one female only appears. The British inhabitants of South Georgia are limited practically to the Government staff and to the crews of British vessels. The remainder are almost exclusively Norwegian or Scandinavian. Eight deaths, as compared with nine in 1930, no births, and no marriages occurred in the Dependencies in 1931.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence, though some unhealthiness, with occasional outbreaks of beri-beri, is caused by the lack of fresh food-stuffs.

No medical officer is maintained by the Government in the Dependencies, but the whaling companies have their own doctors, the Government contributing a share of the salary of the doctor stationed at Grytviken. At South Georgia there are well-equipped hospitals maintained by the whaling companies, and at Deception Island a very efficient hospital is kept in commission during the season by the Hektor Company.

Weather conditions during 1931 were uniformly bad but health conditions were, as usual, relatively good except that the constant bad weather and lack of sunshine tended to produce a state of mental depression bordering on melancholia in a number of cases.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

The question of housing does not really arise in South Georgia or in the other Dependencies. All the officials are suitably housed in the quarters at King Edward Cove and the arrangements made by the whaling companies to accommodate the personnel working on their stations are fully adequate.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

Apart from sealing on a small scale, whaling is the only industry in the Dependencies and whale and seal oil and by-products of the whale, such as guano, their sole produce. The whaling season in the Dependencies is restricted to the period from 16th September to 31st May annually, while sealing operations are carried on at South Georgia from 1st March to 31st October.

Owing to the slump in the market price for oil, whaling operations were very closely curtailed during the 1931-32 season. No floating factories operated under licence from the Government and the land station at Deception Island remained closed, fishing being suspended entirely at the South Shetlands and also at the South Orkneys. At South Georgia two only of the five land stations worked, namely, the *Compania Argentina de Pesca* at Grytviken and the South Georgia Company at Leith.

So far as the catch is concerned the 1931-32 season was exceptionally good. 2,205 whales were taken as compared with 2,736 whales in the 1930-31 season, when all five land stations were working. The total catch was made up of 1,735 fin, 438 blue, 6 humpback, 16 sei, and 10 sperm whales.

The quantity of oil produced amounted to 124,337 barrels with an average per "standard whale" of 83.22 barrels. 113,420 bags of guano were also produced.

The following table shows, for comparative purposes, the actual catch, "standard whales," the oil and guano production, and the average for the past five seasons :—

<i>Season.</i>	<i>Actual Whales.</i>	<i>"Standard Whales."</i>	<i>Oil Produced. Barrels.</i>	<i>Guano. Bags.</i>	<i>Averages.</i>	
					<i>Oil.</i>	<i>Guano.</i>
1927-28 ...	3,638	3,013	303,397	168,816	100.69	56.02
1928-29 ...	5,133	3,581	340,500	244,631	95.10	68.30
1929-30 ...	4,210	2,645	242,950	242,720	91.88	91.70
1930-31 ...	2,736	2,019	188,044	181,152	93.13	89.70
1931-32 ...	2,205	1,494	124,337	113,420	83.22	75.90

The total value of the production is estimated at £339,410 of which figure £248,674 represents the value of the oil and £90,736 that of the guano.

The outlook for next season is uncertain. It is estimated that accumulated stores of oil are still considerable and, while pelagic operations may be undertaken by the floating factories on a limited scale, the land stations are less likely to operate until the depression, which has been aggravated by over-production, is relieved.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1931 was £2,059,855, of which £311,388 represented imports and £1,748,467 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke, and oil fuel accounted for £170,229, whale oil (for re-export) £62,303, hardware and machinery £23,651, and provisions £17,826. The exports of whale and seal oil amounted to £1,577,158, and of guano and bone meal to £163,538.

The following table gives the comparative values of the trade of the Dependencies during the past five years :—

			<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
			£	£	£
1927	...	...	537,060	3,877,565	4,414,625
1928	...	...	436,019	3,763,149	4,199,168
1929	...	...	626,746	5,164,709	5,791,455
1930	...	...	499,829	2,726,173	3,226,002
1931	...	...	311,388	1,748,467	2,059,855

The decrease in the value of the import trade is due to the fact that whaling operations during the 1931-32 season, which opened in September, 1931, were conducted on a very much reduced scale. The decrease in the value of the export trade is due to the further drop in the market price of whale and seal oil and to the smaller number of floating factories operating under licence. Of the imports and of the exports alike approximately 38 per cent. of the value is obtained from or shipped to the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire. The bulk of the coal imported is obtained from the United Kingdom and of the oil fuel from the United States of America and Venezuela. About sixty per cent. of the hardware and machinery comes from the United Kingdom and about twenty-five per cent. from Norway, while provisions show forty-eight per cent. as consigned from the United Kingdom, twenty-seven per cent. from the Argentine, and eighteen per cent. from Norway. Whale and seal oil was exported principally to Norway, thirty-four per cent., the United Kingdom, twenty-one per cent., and South Africa (in transit) twenty per cent. British interests in the whaling industry have marked a considerable advance during the past two or three seasons.

During the year 1931 the price of whale and seal oil fell to £15 a ton and under, as against £25 or £20 a ton in the seasons immediately preceding. Even at this low figure large quantities of oil remained unsold on account of the stocks accumulated through over-production.

The industry generally is in a state of semi-suspension at the present time and it is doubtful whether it will ever be resumed on the same scale as that on which it has been carried on during the past three years. Such a contingency indeed is to be deprecated from almost every point of view.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in South Georgia and on board the floating factories is specially recruited on contract terms, almost exclusively from Norway. The bonus system on production is generally in vogue, the wages of an ordinary labourer ranging from £10 to £15 a month with all found. As there are no shops and no private trade in the Dependencies and as all food-stuffs are provided by the whaling companies for the personnel engaged on their station the question of the cost of living does not arise.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no children in the Dependencies and the problem of education does not therefore arise.

The several whaling companies operating in South Georgia run private cinematograph shows for the benefit of the men employed on their stations. Interest is taken, so far as the serious business of the production of oil will allow, in football and in other forms of sport such as ski-ing during the deep snow of the winter months.

The fourth annual meeting of the South Georgia Sports Association—otherwise styled the Antarctic Sports—was held at Leith Harbour in February by courtesy of Captain L. Hannibal Hansen, manager for the South Georgia Whaling Company. The meeting like its predecessors was in every way successful; the arrangements made were carried through without hitch, weather conditions were exceptionally propitious, and some excellent performances were recorded. Stromness Station were champions in all events, while the football cup was won by Leith who defeated Stromness by 5 goals to none in the final.

A winter sports meeting was also held with full success.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Communication of a regular nature, more or less, between South Georgia and Stanley, as has been stated in a previous chapter of this Report, is maintained by the s.s. *Fleurus* of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, running under contract with the Government. A voyage is made also once a year when whaling operations are in progress between Stanley and Deception Island in the South Shetlands group. During the whaling season direct sailings between Europe and South Georgia in either direction are in the normal course not infrequent and there is a fairly reliable service three times in the year between Buenos Aires and Grytviken furnished by the motor auxiliary s.v. *Tijuca* of the Compania Argentina de Pesca. The majority of the vessels of the South Shetlands and of the high seas whaling fleets call at South Georgia on their way to the fishing grounds in October and on their return journey in April.

Mails are received and despatched either direct or via Stanley by opportunities as they offer. In summer no long intervals occur, but in winter the delay may on occasion be considerable. Postal rates are the same as from and to the Colony proper.

The Government maintains a wireless station at Grytviken, which is in regular communication with Stanley, through which traffic is passed beyond the limits of the Colony. The Argentine Government is permitted to maintain a wireless station on Laurie Island, in the South Orkneys. There are no railways or roads in the Dependencies. Grytviken, South Georgia, and Port Foster at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands, are the only ports of entry.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1931 :—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Steam.</i>		<i>Sailing.</i>	
	<i>Vessels.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Vessels.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	25	107,057	—	—
Foreign (mostly Norwegian) ...	26	84,151	3	2,202
	—	—	—	—
	51	191,208	3	2,202
	—	—	—	—

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

No banks—commercial, agricultural, or co-operative—are in existence in the Dependencies. Such facilities as are afforded in the Colony through the Treasury at Stanley, for example, by the Government Savings Bank for deposit or by the Commissioner of Currency for remittances, are available in South Georgia through the agency of the Magistrate at Grytviken.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

Weights and measures are generally British or Norwegian standard. Whale and seal oil is calculated by the barrel at six barrels of forty gallons to the ton, and guano and other by-products of the whale in hundreds of pounds avoirdupois or in kilograms.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of importance or interest were carried out by the Government during the year but a new engine and plant were installed in the wireless station at Grytviken, South Georgia, where also an extension of the quarters for the operating staff was effected.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The Magistrate, South Georgia, sits at Grytviken in a court of first instance and the Supreme Court of the Colony at Stanley is common to all the Dependencies. During 1931 no case of serious crime was brought before the Courts. Despite the trying conditions,

the personnel of the whaling industry forms a most peaceful and law-abiding community, calling seldom for the intervention of the civil authorities : a fact which in itself speaks highly for the standard of discipline maintained by the managers of the several stations.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

No Ordinances were enacted and no subsidiary legislation was made during the year with special reference to the Dependencies other than the Tariff (Export Duties) Amendment Ordinance, by which the rate of duty on the export of whale oil and of seal oil was fixed at 2s. for each barrel of forty gallons during, respectively, 1931-32 and the 1932 seasons.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The Dependencies' revenue is derived almost entirely from the whaling industry and amounted in 1931 to £48,133. The local expenditure was £31,129, leaving a surplus of £17,004 for transfer to the Research and Development Fund in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 6 of 1924.

The following table shows the comparative figures of the revenue and of the expenditure during the past five years :—

				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				£	£
1927	...	...	...	206,059	111,306
1928	...	...	...	194,153	122,102
1929	...	...	...	122,814	39,385
1930	...	...	...	84,547	21,597
1931	...	...	...	48,133	31,129

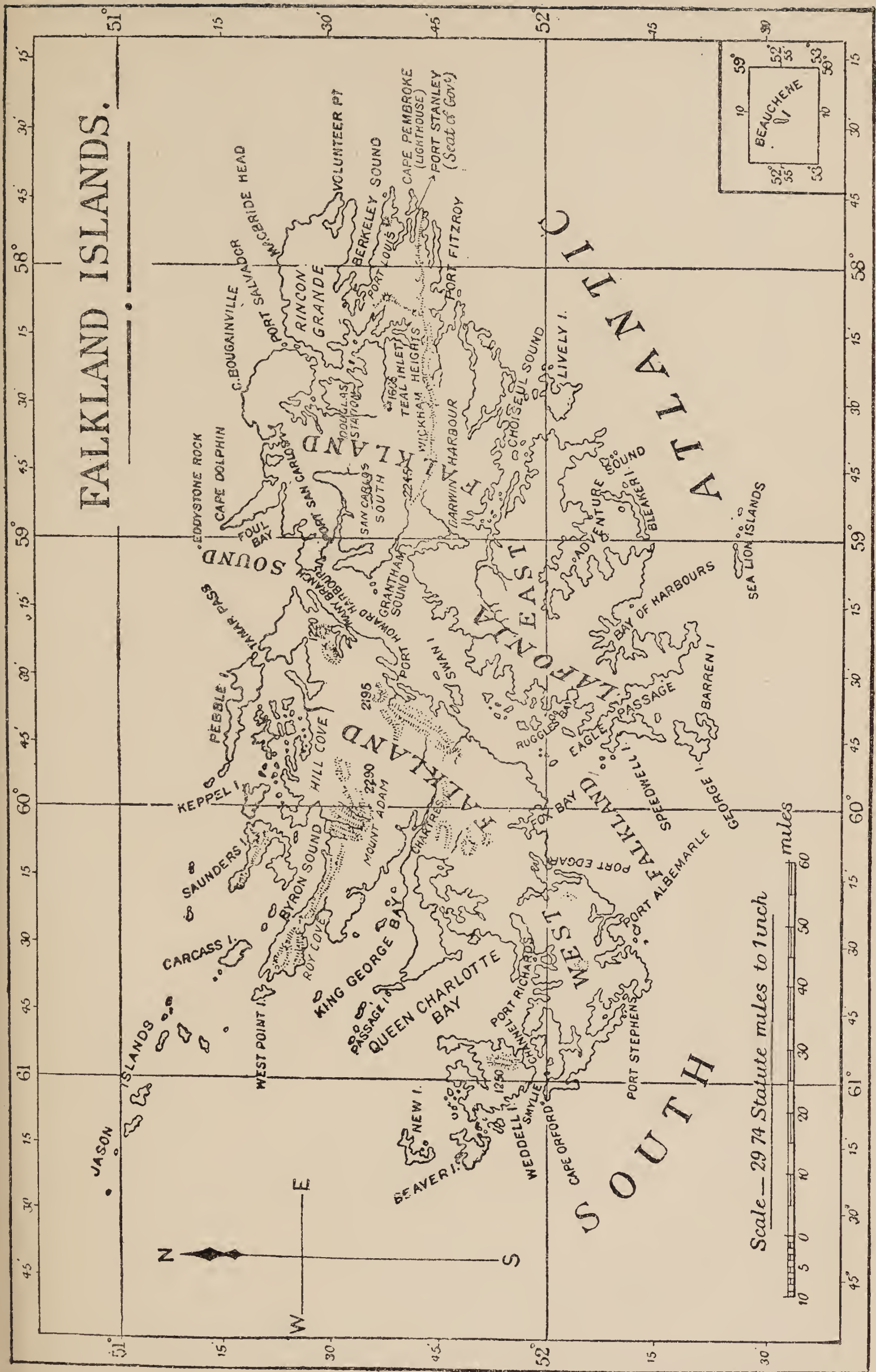
The decline in the revenue figures is due to the fall in the market price of whale and seal oil, export duty on which is collected on a sliding scale, and to the smaller number of whaling factories operating under licence within the Falkland Islands sector. The reduction in the expenditure is to be attributed principally to the change effected in the system of the collection of the export duty on whale and seal oil. Formerly the duty was collected in full at a gross rate, a refund being paid on the basis of the sale value realized : under the existing system the duty is collected at a net rate assessed for the season.

The Dependencies have no public debt. The surplus of assets over liabilities as at 31st December, 1931, was £426,751, earmarked as follows :—

	£
Research and Development Fund	426,751
“ Discovery ” Pension Fund	3,600
General Account	9,000

The main heads of taxation are customs duties on the importation of alcoholic liquors and tobacco and on the exportation of whale and seal oil and by-products of the whaling industry such as guano. Import duties amounted to £946 in 1931 and export duties to £43,180. The customs tariff on importation is the same as in the Colony. The export duty on whale and seal oil during the 1930–31 and 1931–32 seasons was fixed at 2s. a barrel or 12s. a ton and on guano at the rate of 1½d. per 100 lb.

There are no excise or stamp duties, and no hut tax or poll tax.



EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

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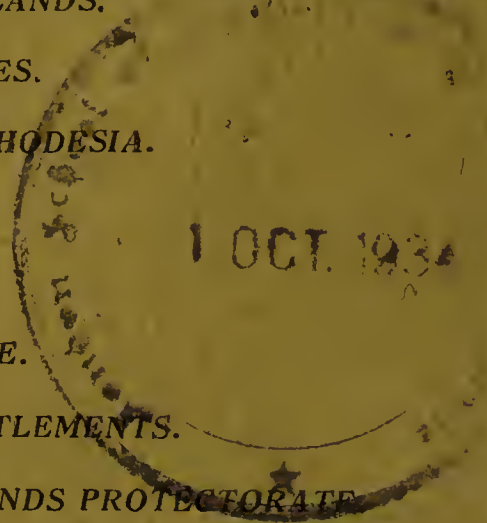
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